



## **Eve Merrall – ACCE DTP**

### **2020-21 cohort**

For my placement I co-created and delivered a residential course on Trade Union Climate Action for a Just Transition for Green Reps, using a framework created by the Green Bargaining Officer for the Trades Union Congress, Sam Perry, who also supervised my placement and organised the project.

Creating this course gave me the opportunity to meet with existing green educators and trade unionists to obtain advice and inspiration, as well as exploring a wide range of literature and media on climate and environmental issues, the labour movement and social justice. Creating the course involved synthesising large amounts of material and presenting it in accessible and aesthetically appealing formats and facilitating participation and co-learning. Delivering the course itself involved a good deal of presenting and leading discussions.

The placement gave me a huge breadth of learning and experience. For example, I gained more in-depth knowledge in the history and politics of environmental action and trade unions, as well as global movements for environmental justice. I also gained insight into the functioning of the TUC and its position in relation to government and trade unions as well as the broader labour movement, and the contrasts and tensions between individuals and the organisation as whole. Delivering the course gave me experience in facilitation and delivery, group coordinating and managing, and quickly considering and responding to questions and multiple points of view. I also improved my power-point skills...!

The placement definitely made me reflect on my future possibilities. Whilst I found the research and development stage of the project interesting and fulfilling, there was a great emotional weight to constant engagement with environmental and social crises both past and present and so any future work in this area for me would need to take into account that emotional dimension. I also found that I got a huge amount of satisfaction and enjoyment from the actual course dissemination, something that I did not expect from my previous experience of teaching (undergraduate demonstrating). Sam and the TUC were supportive and gracious hosts/co-workers, and I learnt a great deal from them.

All in all, I can imagine doing similar work in the future if I could find it and will keep my ears open for such positions.